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ENG 1001G-058-070: Composition and Language

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English 1001: A course description and syllabus.

Instructor: Keith Spear, MA
Office: Coleman Hall 3734
Phone: 581-7011 or 345-6819 (home)
Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 and 5:45-6:45 M W F
and by appointment.

Required purchases:

a spiral notebook to be used as a journal for this class only
four exam booklets (available at the Union Bookstore)

Writing as a Process

Writing is a teachable skill, like carpentry or painting or playing the guitar. The big difference is that you can have a wonderful life without ever becoming a carpenter or painter or musician, but effective writing is an indispensable skill that will help you along in whatever role you create for yourself. Rumor has it that good writing is the product of inspiration, but this is for the most part a fallacy. Good writing is not really even a product at all; it is a process. And, as Linda Flower says in Problem Solving Strategies for Writing, "if a writer's method relies on waiting for inspiration, she may have a long and uninterrupted wait."

The process theory of writing also does away with the old notion of "first you think it up, then you write it down." What happens more often than not is that you write your way toward what you believe: you discover new ideas as you write. Writing becomes a thinking process that improves with practice. That is why we will be keeping journals. The journal writing technique is a way of practicing the necessary skills in way that adds up to many many pages, without demanding eight or ten papers from you. It also gives you a no-pressure environment in which to warm up your skills.

Grades:

Your grade will be determined by averaging the scores from eight writing assignments. The journal consists of two of the assignments. There will also be one expressive (narrative) essay, one expository essay, two in-class essays that you will have two class sessions each to compose, and a slightly longer research paper which counts double.

This may be one of the hardest classes you will take at the university, and it certainly will be one of the most important because you will find your college career--regardless of major--teeming with writing centered and writing intensive classes. I am

available by appointment at your convenience if I can help, and I have included my home phone number. Also, there is an excellent -- and free -- service available to you at the Writing Center, Coleman Hall 3110. You will walk out of the door with a better paper every time.

Except in the case of excused and documented absences, if an assignment is late, it will be docked one letter grade for each day it is late. Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -2. They may not be made up. (See "Grading," below.)

Grading

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

- 12.5% -- Essay 1: Self Expression (Narrative Essay)
- 12.5% -- Essay 2: Exposition (Expository Essay)
- 12.5% -- Journal One
- 12.5% -- Essay 3: In-class essay, near mid-term
- 25.0% -- Essay 4: Research Essay on Dreams
- 12.5% -- Journal Two
- 12.5% -- Essay 5: In- class essay, last week

I will use the following values in averaging your grades:

A+ = 4.2	B+ = 3.2	C+ = 2.2	D+ = 1.2	F = 0.0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	Missing = -2.0
A - = 3.8	B - = 2.8	C - = 1.8	D - = 0.8	

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

A = 4.2 to 3.8	B = 3.7 to 2.8	C = 2.7 to 1.8
	N/C = 1.7 and below	

This is an A, B, C, or no-credit class, so you can't get a D or an F, but if you get a N/C you will have to take it again. Invest your talents and time in this class and you will never regret it.

Journals:

Requiring you to keep a journal is a blessing in disguise. It is a place for you to help satisfy departmental requirements for the quantity of writing you produce, free from some of the limitations associated with producing a polished rhetorical artifact. Journal entries can record your impressions of the works you read and serve as practice fields for the essays you subsequently generate. Each assigned entry should consist of at least two hundred and fifty words. The journals will be collected twice unannounced and they will constitute a significant (25%) portion of your grade.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Plagiarism Policy

I am required to say this about the English Department's policy concerning plagiarism:

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and / or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay, and a grade of N/C for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs office.

Pretty strong language for a pretty serious offense; it occurs, and has resulted, in some cases, in expulsion from the university. We're learning a survival skill here, and a cheater is only cheating himself.

Syllabus for English 1001, Fall semester, 2004

August	23 25	Introduction to the class. Invention Strategies. Listing. MLA Format. Looping. Diagnostic Essay.
	30	Clustering. Up Drafts and Down Drafts. A One Inch Frame. The Narrative Essay Assignment.
Sept.	1	Dominant Image in Narratives. Please read <u>Bedford Guide</u> 43-48 In class reading of Maya Angelou's "Uncle Willie." Discussion. Formation of Writing Groups.
	6	Labor Day -- No Class.
	8 *	Turn in a 3 - 5 page typed draft of your narrative essay. Bring 2 extra copies to class. Peer review.
	13	Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
	15	Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
	20 *	Turn in your 3 - 5 page revised narrative essay. The Expository Essay Assignment.
	22	Audience and Purpose in Popular Music. Bring in a tape or CD of a favorite piece of music. Discovering Focus through Exploratory Writing.
	27 *	Memo to Identify the Focus of the Expository Essay
	29	The A B C 's of Focus Using Direct References to Illustrate and Support
Oct.	4	MLA Documentation and the Skillfull Incorporation of Quotes
	6	Writing as a Recursive Process. The Enhanced Thesis. Editing in Reverse: Sentence Level Revisions.
	11 *	Turn in your 3 - 5 page Expository Essay. Mid-term essay -- to be written entirely in class on consecutive sessions. Please bring two exam booklets to class.
	13 *	Mid-term essay -- to be written entirely in class on consecutive sessions. Please bring two exam booklets to class.

- Oct. 18 Dreamy Research: Investigating the Nature of Dreams.
On the Nature of Dreams and Dreaming.
- 20 Xeno's Riddle, Freud's Triumvirate, and Waking Life.
- 25 Technology driven dream research. Evaluating on-line sources.
Skillfull incorporation of quotes and other direct references.
Please read 230-36 in Blair and bring your book.
- 27 Continued research. Building the Works Cited page.
Please read 755-67 and 775-77 in Blair and bring your book.
- Nov. 1 Audience and Purpose in Dreams and Essays.
- 3 * Turn in a 5-7 page draft of your research project on dreams.
Please bring an extra copy for peer review.
- 8 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
- 10 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
- 15 * Turn in revised 5-7 page research paper on dreams.
MLA Documentation. Please bring The Blair Handbook
and The Bedford Guide.
- 17 * Turn in revised Works Cited page.
- Nov. 22-26 Thanksgiving Break - No Class
- 29 Gender Theory: Toward a Feminist Theory of Argumentation.
Please read Kula's "Victoria's Not-So Secret . . ." (Bed. Guide 510)
and Prader's "Our Barbies, Ourselves" (Bed. Reader 334).
- Dec. 1 Collaboration and Compromise. Negotiation and Mediation.
Please read Potter's "Mirror Image" (Bed. Guide 514) and Turner's
"Cutting Edge" (524).
- 6 Final essay -- to be written entirely in class on consecutive
sessions. Please bring two exam booklets to class.
- 8 * Final essay continued.
- Dec. 13-17 Finals week. No final in this class. Good luck on your other finals!